

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01266 071741Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MMS-01 SS-15

SP-02 L-02 PRS-01 NSC-05 ABF-01 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /047 W

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O 071700Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1475

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1266

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR PFOR CY

SUBJ: POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF FBIS OPERATIONS IN CYPRUS

REF: STATE 074984

1. I SAW FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES APRIL 7 TO ARGUE FOR GOC APPROVAL OF RESUMED FBIS OPERATION. I LEFT HIM AN INFORMAL, CONFIDENTIAL TALKING PAPER INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. NO U.S. COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY IS CURRENTLY OPERATING WITHIN THE OCCUPIED ZONE. STATIONS HAVE BEEN "MOTHBALLED" IN ORDER NOT TO PREJUDICE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

B. WE WOULD LIKE TO RESUME A VERY LIMITED OPERATION ON THIS SIDE. WE ENVISAGE NO MORE THAN FOUR AMERICANS AND PERHAPS TWELVE TO FOURTEEN PERSONS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES, APPROXIMATELY HALF OF WHOM ARE EMPLOYEES OF LONG STANDING WHO HAVE CYPRIOT NATIONALITY. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF REOPENING IS TO BE ABLE TO COVER EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE EVENT A RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES THERE SHOULD KNOCK OUT COVERAGE WE CURRENTLY MAINTAIN FROM TEL AVIV AND AMMAN.

C. A RESUMED FBIS OPERATION ON THIS SIDE WOULD NOT ENTAIL A
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 01266 071741Z

"COMPOUND" AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE FORMER FBIS OPERATION IN

KARAVAS AND THE RELAY FACILITIES IN YEROLAKKOS AND MIA MILIA. OUR THOUGHT WOULD BE TO FIND A SMALL VILLA OR THE TOP FLOOR OF AN APARTMENT. THE OPERATION WOULD BE IN NO WAY CLANDESTINE BUT NEITHER WOULD IT BE OBTRUSIVE.

D. OUR 1968 EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS PREMISES AND INSTALLATION PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING SITES, AS WELL AS AT SUCH ADDITIONAL SITES AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE MUTUALLY AGREED: ..."

E. IT SHOULD BE POINT OUT THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE CURRENTLY TOTALLY OUT OF OPERATION IN CYPRUS, WE HAVE PAID AND IT IS OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO PAY THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,400,000 PROVIDED FOR IN THE 1968 AGREEMENT.

F. FBIS, AS NOTED, IS AN ENTIRELY OPEN ACTIVITY. IT MONITORS BROADCASTS OF GOVERNMENT RADIO STATIONS IN THE AREA AND DOES TRANSLATIONS OF SIGNIFICANT NEWSPAPER ARTICLES. A SELECTION OF ITS PRODUCT IS ENCLOSED. FBIS MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS, THE PRESS SCHOLARS.

G. AS WAS ALWAYS THE CASE AT KARAVAS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

CYPRUS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WELCOME TO VISIT THE STATION WHENEVER THEY WISHED ON A NO-NOTICE BASIS.

H. IF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE INTERESTED, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO INSTALL AT U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPENSE A TELETYPE RECEIVER IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS COULD RECEIVE THE SAME COVERAGE WE DO IN THE EMBASSY, I.E. EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. WE WOULD EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS TO COVER THE COST OF A TELEPHONE LINE FROM THE FBIS INSTALLATION TO THE TELETYPE RECEIVER IN THE MINISTRY, BUT THIS WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE.

2. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE WOULD FORWARD U.S. REQUEST TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH HIS OWN FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION. THE PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTY HE FORESAW IN GAINING APPROVAL WAS POLITICAL, I.E. ARCHBISHOP'S SENSITIVITY, HEIGHTENED AT THIS TIME, TO
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PAGE 03 NICOSI 01266 071741Z

IRRITATING THE ARABS AND STIRRING UP THE LEFT-WING ON CYPRUS. CHRISTOPHIDES WAS CLEARLY INTRIGUED WITH GOOD COVERAGE HE WOULD GET ON CYPRUS PROBLEM BY HAVING A LINK IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE ASKED THAT, IF LINK ESTABLISHED, WE ALSO PROVIDE FBIS'S PRODUCT ON ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM. HE THOUGHT THAT IF THERE WERE LATER CRITICISM THIS WOULD BE USEFUL TO SHOW OPPONENTS THAT COVERAGE OF ARAB-ISRAELI EVENTS WAS OPEN AND BALANCED.

3. COMMENT:. THIS IS A FAVORABLE START. OUR PROBLEM WILL BE
WITH MAKARIOS BUT THERE IS MUCH IN OUR ARGUMENTS THAT WILL CAUSE
HIM TO PONDER ADVISABILITY OF AN INSTINCTIVE NEGATIVE REPLY.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PUBLICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NICOSI01266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750120-0194
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750475/aaaacqxb.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 074984
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF FBIS OPERATIONS IN CYPRUS
TAGS: PINR, PFOR, CY, FBIS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006